

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00051 080728Z

21 10

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-01 L-03 /011 W

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R 080352Z FEB 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 051

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AFIN, SY

SUBJECT: LEASES DAMASCUS USINT PERSONNEL

REF: JONES/LEE TELCON 5 FEB 74

1. IN RECONTACTING AGENTS AND LANDLORDS PRICES OF ALL APTS SEEM TO STAY FIRM. OF NUMBER OF APTS SEEN BEFORE LEE/JONES LETTER ONLY ONE IS STILL AVAILABLE. OTHERS HAVE BEEN LEASED BY FOREIGN FIRMS OR EMBASSIES. INTERESTING THAT LEE SAW GERMAN AND UNITED NATIONS ADMIN OFFICERS. BOTH TOLD TALES OF WOE ON HOUSING SITUATION. THIS IS SELLERS MARKET AND WITH FURTHER INFUX OF BUSINESS/OFFICIAL PERSONNAL SITUATION CAN ONLY GET TIGHTER. LEE REMAINS CONFIDENT THAT SOMETHING CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND BUT FEELS THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT GAIN MUCH. CONTINUED SEARCH HAS DEVELOPED FOLLOWING.

2. LARGE BASEMENT APT WITH APPROXIMATE ONE THOUSAND SQ FT REP. AREA, FOUR BEDRMS, TWO BATHS, AND LARGE GARDEN AREA, KITCHEN AND SERVANTS QUARTERS. COST IS \$5,195 PER YEAR. LIGHTS, WATER, HEAT, TELEPHONE EXTRA. THIS APT SUITABLE FOR ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER SINCE ASSUME HE WILL BE DOING MOST ENTERTAINING. APT LOCATED NEAR USINT IN EXCELLENT AREA OF TOWN.

3. MUCH OLDER APT LOCATED NEAR USINT THAT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR ADMIN/CONSULAR OFFICER. REPRESENTATION AREA MUCH LESS (SIX HUNDRED SQ FT). APT IN FAIR

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CONDITION WITH FOUR BEDROOMS AND ONE BATH BUT COULD

BE MADE QUITE LIVABLE. APT ON FIRST FLOOR AND HAS NO GARDEN AREA. COST IS \$4,545 PER YEAR. AGAIN LIGHTS, HEAT, WATER, TELEPHONE EXTREA.

4. APT IN PARA 2 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN MID MARCH. APT IN PARA 3 AVAILABLE BUT NEEDS MINOR REPAIRS WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY LANDLORD.

5. IN NEXT FEW DAYS APT FOR C&R BEING SEARCHED. RESULTS WILL BE SENT VIA TELEX. FOR SECRETARY N. BARBER CONTINUING SEARCH IS UNDERWAY. ONE BEDROOM APTS SEEM EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN POST REPORT OF 1966 INDICATED.

6. PLAN IS FOR FIRM LEASE FOR TWO YEARS WITH OPTION FOR THREE YEARS THEREAFTER. IT LOOKS LIKE THREE MONTHS ADVANCE SHOULD DO. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR THOUGHTS OR CONFIRMATION VIA CABLE AND WISH US LUCK. SCOTES

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